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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

REVIEWS.

DIE SOZIALDEMOKRATISCHE GEDANKENWELT. Von THEODOR BARTH, Mitglied des Reichstags. Pp. 70. Berlin: Leonhard Simion, 1890.

DURING the past twelve years the Socialistic agitation in Germany has been defensive rather than positive. It has been one long struggle for equality before the law. With the lapse of the Anti-socialist law, the Social Democracy must begin once more to lay stress on its economic doctrines. The work of defining its positive aims, however irksome, must be taken up again, for with the removal of outside pressure, the demand for a precise programme will be heard both within and without the party organization.

In view of this probable development, Dr. Barth has reprinted, with but trifling alterations, an acute critique of the Social Democratic ideal, which first saw the light in 1879. With a brief discussion of the theoretical principles of Socialism, the theory of value, the law of wages, and the supposed conflict of capital and labor, he passes on to consider the ideal state of which the Socialists dream. He shows most clearly that in all the affairs of life, production, distribution, and exchange, the only order of things which follows logically from the principles of the Socialist, is an intensely centralized regulation of all the details of existence. He ruthlessly destroys the sugar coating which kind-hearted critics and reformers of the Bellamy type have given to the Socialistic pill.

R. P. F.
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